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## **THE UNCONCIOUS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: AN OVERVIEW IN THE CONTEXT OF PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORY**

**Annotation.** «Personality foundation is laid in the period between 0-5 ages» says Freud, representative of psychoanalytical theory, while emphasising the importance of first childhood period on an individual's personality development and formation. This expression puts forward how important the life spent in the infancy and childhood period is. Because, infancy and first childhood are the periods when a human life is the most sensitive and the most open to out influences. Psychoanalysts, revealing aspects of the individual's subconscious, faced during his childhood and his life, leaving traces reveal elements essential to get treated him. Psychoanalysis human conscious ideas, feelings, and behavior are closely linked to the subconscious level of interest suggests that about. Early childhood is a stage in human development. It generally includes toddlerhood and some time afterwards. The things in the subconscious are effective in many events, behaviors and coincidence which are defined as conscious. In this study is discussed the concept of the unconscious in early childhood from a psychoanalytic perspective.

**Key words:** early childhood, psychoanalytic theory, psychoanalysis, unconscious.

**Research type:** Review.

**Introduction.** The method of psychoanalysis, which was systematically developed by Sigmund Freud at the end of the 19th century and later developed by other researchers, basically aims at solving human behavior and explaining these behaviors in a cause and effect relationship. Psychoanalysis advocates that

sometimes human behaviors are behind the scenes, and sometimes it is unconscious processes that he/ she is not aware of. Psychoanalysts are more concerned with the subconscious of the individual, they have argued that behavior of the individual is often directed by the subconscious (Yavaş, 2018).

Psychoanalysis was born at the end of the 19. century and it has been present recently. The element that is placed at the basic interest point of psychoanalysis is subject. Psychoanalysis does not grasp the subject as a whole but it does as it is alienated to itself. Psychoanalysis theory evaluates it as conflicting parts. Psychoanalysis has been a new and radical clinic approach and also has become the most comprehensive theory which provides groundbreaking explanations to these dead ends and root causes of them. Psychoanalysis, which has taken its place among many scientific studies in psychological history, appears as an approach of Freud and his thoughts. The deep effects of unconscious elements on characters are examined with psychoanalytic approach.

**Method.** In this study has been literature review.

**Literature Review. Early Childhood Period.** Early education is education which is done to support 0-6-year-old-children 's physical, mental, emotional, social and moral development in home and institutional environments. During this period, children 's development is rather fast and they are ready to learn several skills. The most important point in the spirit health of a child is to know and differentiate the spiritual development characteristics peculiar to every age. Children are unique and rather recipient creatures who are different from adults in terms of emotions, behaviours, thoughts and development properties; open to learning, improving and changing.

**Psychoanalytic Theory.** The founder of psychoanalytic theory is obviously Sigmund Freud, but Otto Rank, Carl Gustav Jung, Alfred Adler, Anna Freud, Eric Ericson, Jacques Lacan and many other important analysers benefit this theory and each of them established their own schools. Different perspectives on behavioral patterns and personality developments in the historical process are presented with the psychoanalytic theory developed by Freud. Psychoanalytic theory initially emerged

as a method of treatment, psychoanalysis. Over time, the method of psychoanalysis has been perceived as a theory. Using dream analysis method, Freud claimed that human behaviors and personality are guided by unconscious elements and that individuals' behaviors are based on innate instinctual foundations ;he associated individuals' behavior with innate aggression and sexual urges; drew attention to four basic elements in defining personality and behavior: topographic model, structural model, psychosexual developmental stages and defense mechanisms (Sağlık, 2021: 435)

**Psychoanalysis.** Psychoanalysis is one of the most commonly used approaches to modern and even post modern times. Psychoanalysis was put forward by Sigmund Freud as a theory for the treatment of psychic disorders in the 19th century and had a ground breaking impact on the science of psychology. Since the psychoanalytic theory was first put forward, many factors such as depressions, uncertainties and conflicts of individuals in literary works have been tried to be examined by applying this theory (Ankay, 2019).

Jacques Lacan, one of the leading names in contemporary psychoanalysis, says that the unconscious is structured like a language. Lacan re-read the unconscious formations that Freud pointed out (such as dreams, slips of the tongue, jokes, hysterical and obsessive symptoms) with modern linguistics tools created by Ferdinand de Saussure, especially the concept of signe; gave psychoanalysis a new perspective. Psychoanalysis defined by Sigmund Freud is a set of psychotherapy techniques and methods that have been used in the treatment of spiritual pursuits and disorders, and Freud continued his studies to develop psychoanalytic theory throughout his life. Psychoanalytic theory, of course, is not only Freud's structured form, but other than Freud's views\_important names have produced alternative assumptions that will make further contributions to the theory. The field of psychoanalytic theory's use for purely spiritual analysis and healing also started to become more comprehensive over time (Serter, 2021: 190).

Psychoanalysis, which was pioneered by Sigmund Freud and which has been instrumental in numerous researches after him, aimed to analyze in detail the human

being and his behavior. Psychoanalytical critical system, developed by Freud to get to know people and understand them better by studying their subconscious, is used widely while commenting on literary and artistic works. This thesis aims to study the characters with depressive and neurotic symptoms in Modern Turkish novel in terms of psychoanalysis (Antakyalı, 2016).

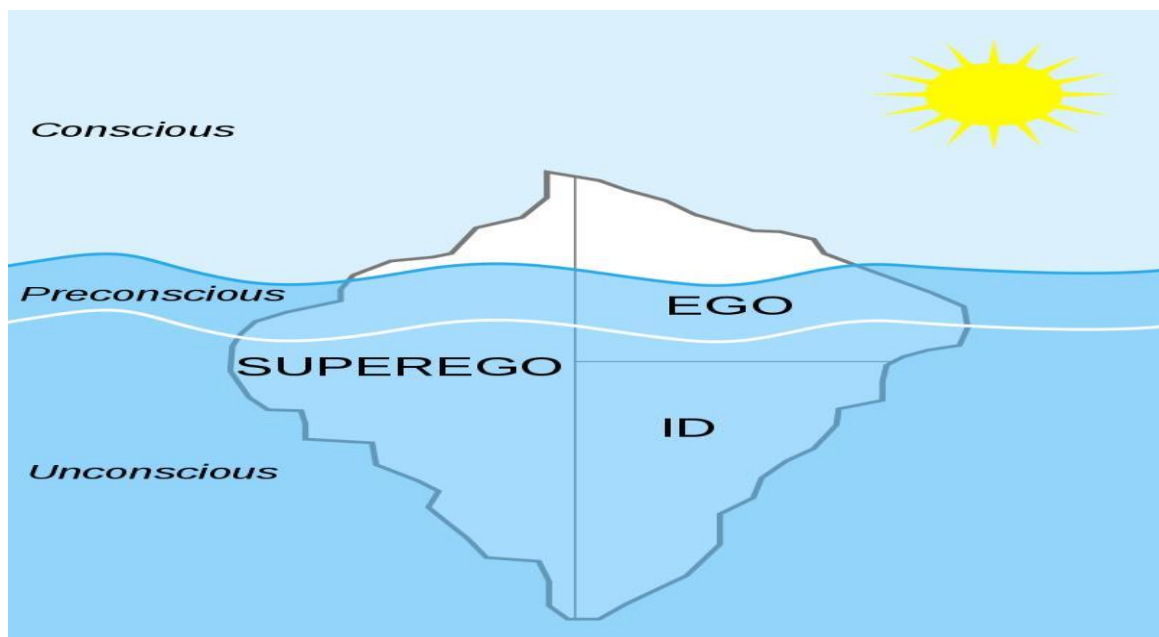
**Unconscious.** According to the psychoanalytic theory, the unconscious is the secret power and essential source of human acts. The main way to approach this source is to release meanings beneath the discourses, which mean to release what has been disclosed by language (Türk, 2017).

The unconscious mind (or the unconscious) consists of the processes in the mind which occur automatically and are not available to introspection and include thought processes, memories, interests, and motivations (Drew, 1999). Even though these processes exist well under the surface of conscious awareness, they are theorized to exert an effect on behavior. The term was coined by the 18th-century German Romantic philosopher Friedrich Schelling and later introduced into English by the poet and essayist Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Empirical evidence suggests that unconscious phenomena include repressed feelings, automatic skills, subliminal perceptions, and automatic reactions, and possibly also complexes, hidden phobias, and desires. The concept was popularized by the Austrian neurologist and psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud. In psychoanalytic theory, unconscious processes are understood to be directly represented in dreams, as well as in slips of the tongue and jokes. Thus the unconscious mind can be seen as the source of dreams and automatic thoughts (those that appear without any apparent cause), the repository of forgotten memories (that may still be accessible to consciousness at some later time), and the locus of implicit knowledge (the things that we have learned so well that we do them without thinking. It has been argued that consciousness is influenced by other parts of the mind. These include unconsciousness as a personal habit, being unaware and intuition. Phenomena related to semi-consciousness include awakening, implicit memory, subliminal messages, trances, hypnagogia and hypnosis. While sleep, sleepwalking, dreaming, delirium and comas may signal the presence of unconscious

processes, these processes are seen as symptoms rather than the unconscious mind itself. Some critics have doubted the existence of the unconscious (Baldwin, 1995; <https://en.wikipedia.org>).

The emergence of the psychoanalysis of Sigmund and his work on hold in Freud's subconscious has an important place. The subconscious, which are biologically inherited primitive instincts of sexuality and aggression, as well as suppressed thoughts, memories, desires and consists of impulse. factor in an individual's subconscious and consciousness can not go directly to the unrest to push him, but sometimes shows itself in a way. pushed to the subconscious experiences, feelings and thoughts may arise with dreams and visions. Freud was also used data from the unconscious to explain the human behavior (Karabulut, 2016: 2).

The elements of psychoanalytic theory are shown in Figure 1.



**Fig. 1. The elements of psychoanalytic theory**

**Conclusion.** One of the most important concepts of Freudian psychology is the unconscious. When we talk about Freud's ideas and theory, we come across the concepts of unconscious and subconscious (Karabulut, 2016: 2). According to Karaağaç (2019) Freud concluded that while he regarded human behavior as conscious, unexplained behaviors are thoughts that are suppressed unconscious and somehow try to rise to the level of consciousness. It is a secret world composed of the

desires of the unconscious. This world, which individuals are not aware of in daily life, appears in their dreams and daydreams. From this point of view, the life of the child during this period is an important period that needs to be considered in terms of shaping his personality. In psychoanalytic theory, when the child is looked upon, Freud's attitude, which removes the children from their innocence, draws attention to the concept of childish sexuality. It has been observed in the researches that these statements have been criticized by some people because they think that they cause negative perceptions of the child's innocence (Özşahin, 2019: 129).

According to the findings of the study by Tunç (2021). According to the findings of the study, it was observed that Dahl's traumatic memories in his childhood also affected his literary life. Images and certain themes that are repeated within the basic fiction of Dahl's works point to a central "meaning" structurally. As a result; It has been seen that the unconscious of the author is reflected in the works. According to the findings of the study by Karaağaç (2019) As a result, traces of his own unconscious have been seen in his fictional world, where the author was unable to isolate himself from his individual psychology when creating the literary text. According to the findings of the study by Korkut (2018) The results indicated that mother's stress, social support, their attributions and expectations about their child's behaviors and state as well as child temperament can contribute to problem behaviors. According to the findings of the study by (Tuzgöl, 2018: 41) drawing a connection between psychoanalysis and linguistics, Lacan expressed his approach to the unconscious as «*The unconscious is structured like a language*» which is accepted as one of the key principles of Lacanian psychoanalysis When the studies in the literature are examined, the importance of childhood experiences in the development of personality comes to the fore. In this context, it is thought that it is important to examine and understand Freud's perspective on children.

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